

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

March 2023



Sermons and service posted on church website: vashonpreschurch.org

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>

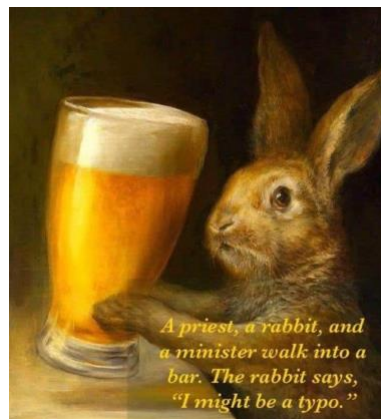
Love One Another

Whoever you are and wherever your life's journey has taken you, you are welcome here. We hope that you will find VPC to be a people of warmth, acceptance, and commitment to the calling of Jesus Christ. We are honored to have you worship with us.



In This Newsletter

- Lenten Message from Pastor Leigh
- Spotlight on IFCH with Brownie Carver
- Lenten and Easter Worship Service Schedule
- Overview of VPC Building Improvements
- Faith Formation Lenten Study Selection
- Pi Day (March 14) Details
- Hospitality and Outreach Events
- Deacons' Lending Library
- VPC Book Club Selection
- March Birthdays
- March VPC Calendar



A priest, a rabbit, and a minister walk into a bar. The rabbit says, "I might be a typo."

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

My son was visiting with me the other day and said, "I love those bluebirds that live in that tree. It makes it such a happy tree." As we started talking about his statement, he shared that the tree across from my house has always had bluebirds like those since he could remember. I went over to the window to look. Bluebirds! Several of them were flitting around the tree, clearly claiming it as their home.

After all these years, how did I not know that the tree across the street was a bluebird haven? What a gift it was to me to see what Eric was seeing, what Eric HAD been seeing for a very long time. He's almost 27.

As Eric drove out of the driveway to head home, I found myself looking at the bluebirds. Now I really see them. They're extraordinary.

What else am I not seeing? In the busy nature of life, what might I be missing? And what is someone else seeing? It reminded me of why community is important and why God didn't create us to be completely alone. Just like Eric's eyes noticed something I missed, we each have a lens that allows us to pay attention and tell about what we see.

Perhaps one of the disciplines we might practice during Lent is to pay attention and then tell about what we see. Where do you see goodness? Where do you see mercy? Where do you see need? God gives each of us eyes to see and ears to hear and puts us in community to share that with one another.

Together, we get a bigger picture of the world around us, of our call as God's children and of how we might love the world a little better.

I live across the street from such a happy tree. I sure am glad my son helped me see it. I wonder what all we might see if we look together.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



WORSHIP SERVICES UPCOMING IN MARCH AND APRIL

LENT - February 22 through April 8

(Note below the changes in worship during Lent and Holy Week)

Communion Each Sunday Through Lent

HOLY WEEK -April 2 through April 9

April 2 – PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM VPC/Zoom

April 2 through – 5 Holy Week Evening Worship - 6:00 PM Zoom

April 6 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm VPC/Zoom

April 7 – GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm VPC/Zoom

Good Friday Vigil 9:00 PM – 6:00 AM

April 9 - EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service - 6:45 AM Camp Burton

Easter Sunday Service - 10:00 AM VPC/Zoom

Easter Egg Hunt - After worship VPC

We have revised our worship service for Lent and Holy Week. We made these changes based on information taken from your recent worship survey. Although these revisions are intended for Lent through Easter only, if a change is well received and enhances our worship experience, we will commit to it in the longer term. Most respondents indicated Communion is one of the most meaningful components of the worship service. We will share Communion every Sunday during Lent. Music was mentioned as one of the parts of the service that most inspire an attitude of worship. Our musicians are preparing special music as part of each service. We are omitting the Doxology during this time to create what we think is a more contemplative feel to the service. In this regard, we will have a progressively-increased silent reflective time for each service until Easter. During the Prayers of the People, we ask that members mention only the names of people for whom they'd like prayers, leaving room for the Spirit to work in us to discern God's call. We also will ask for any written prayer requests to be placed in the offering plate to be addressed during the week by Leigh and the Deacons. We will hold our first Good Friday vigil in years.

Some of these changes are subtle and some significant. The hope is we are responding to the congregation's needs and wishes and ultimately God's plan for us going forward.

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder



Spotlight on IFCH

Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness

This year marks IFCH's twentieth anniversary of serving the Vashon community.

Brownie Carver, who has been involved with IFCH since 2016, represents VPC on its board, where she serves as corresponding secretary. In her role, Brownie has worked tirelessly in supporting IFCH's mission. She has spearheaded numerous ad hoc relief efforts throughout the pandemic and during severe weather. She also helps organize the IFCH dinners which are provided each weeknight, on site at our church.

Below, Brownie shares key info about IFCH: Its mission, ongoing efforts, and successes, as well as how you can help support its efforts.

Brownie Carver, VPC Representative

The mission of the IFCH is to respond to the needs of Vashon's homeless and community members who are at risk of becoming homeless. **We emphasize prevention.** Our goal is to keep people housed. We assist with rent, utilities, medical and dental needs, transportation, and meals.

During the last twenty years, we have seen many successes. As corresponding secretary, I have been sent many thank you notes from people who received help and are now giving back. During the COVID shutdown, the rent program gave assistance to islanders who had lost work. Most of these households are now back to work and no longer require help. Another success story features a homeless man whom we were able to reconnect with his family.

The IFCH has people who are good at giving financial help and have been able to get housing for others. Giving assistance so that people can get back on their feet is our goal, but some needs are ongoing, and Vashon has a homeless population. There are people living in tents, vehicles, and sheds. Some have only temporary housing.

The IFCH is working with other social organizations on Vashon. So, we try to connect people to the best source of help. We receive no government money, operating solely from donations and grants.

A BIG THANK YOU to our church for allowing the meals program to operate out of the East Room. This program is not only reaching out to people in need, but also to people looking for companionship. To learn more about our organization, please contact me at bc2vashon@centurytel.net. If you wish to help with a financial contribution, please send your donation to Vashon IFCH, PO Box 330, Vashon, WA 98070.

*Brownie Carver
Corresponding Secretary, Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness.*



Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting February 21 at VPC. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting after a devotional reading and prayer by Al Ross Weston. Session discussed a request from a member to consider offering a brief statement acknowledging the indigenous people who originally inhabited the property we call "ours."

Pastor Leigh will follow up with the congregant. Pastor Leigh will also coordinate Lenten activities with the Church of the Holy Spirit and Vashon Lutheran Church.

Diana Lilje reported that the planning committee has met two times, listing items needing attention currently and short-term. Highest priority has been assigned to tech upgrades for Worship including purchasing a cabinet for secure storage of tech equipment and two more cordless microphones. Also listed as high priorities are installing a grease trap for the kitchen sink, replacing the vinyl tiles of the kitchen floor, replacing doors damaged by the office break in, installing new Sanctuary doors, and providing additional wall outlets for the Youth Room.

Session approved a resolution from the Finance committee to increase The Capital Repair Fund from \$30,000 to \$40,000 to adjust for inflation and to move \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Repair Fund to accomplish the increase. Session also approved a resolution to contract with a nonprofit group to rent the basement as a preschool starting in the Fall.

The Hospitality Committee reported on being joined on February 5 by the Vashon Cub/Boy/Girl Scouts and their families. The Scouts currently meet in the basement. The Scouts and families were appreciative of the use of our space.

Outreach has plans for Pi Day and an Easter candy distribution.

More details of all mission activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter.

The next regular session meeting will be held at the church on Tuesday, March 21 at 4:30.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Church Leadership

Pastor	Leigh Weber
Clerk of Session	Jacq Skeffington
Session Members	Lindsay Hofman (Outreach), Jim Lilje (Finance), Elizabeth Loveness (Worship), Bob Spangler (Purposeful Service), Nancy Tucker (Hospitality), Al Ross-Weston (Faith Formation)
Deacons	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Chris Coldeen, Larry Commeree, Susan Commeree, Caran-marie Weston Dunbar, Sheryl Lehman

Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility

Scholarships, Mary's Place partnership, IFCH, Mission Partner Relations

Lent is the period when we support the national One Great Hour of Sharing collection. OGHS funds are relatively equally distributed among three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. The e-News continues providing information about the assistance provided through PDA, including relief efforts in Turkey and Syria. Bulletin inserts highlight the accomplishments of the other programs, which are designed to address the root causes of hunger, poverty, and injustice. We invite you to contribute generously to our only PCUSA- sponsored offering.

Did you know that VPC will be awarding two academic scholarships in May? For many years we have awarded a scholarship from an endowment created by the Heindsmann family. That scholarship is for a student several years out of high school who is pursuing a college degree or trade school certification. This year we also will award a scholarship to a graduating Vashon High School senior as part of the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation. This scholarship will be funded from VPC 's 2023 budget and some designated collections. The preferred criterion for award is an interest in a career in mental health or geriatrics, possibly as a nurse or therapist. Committees for both scholarships have been formed to review applications and recommend candidates to session.

We took a carload of plastic bags, Styrofoam and other plastic products to the island-wide event on February 5. The next collection at VPC will be April 1. The organizers greatly appreciate combined efforts to reduce traffic at the site.

Every year the VPC budget authorizes donations to "mission partners" – organizations whose work corresponds with our Christian mission. The first 2023 donation was \$1,000 to the Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (IFCH). IFCH is a Vashon non-profit whose mission is "to identify and respond to the needs of those who either are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless." To further that mission, IFCH provides meals (distributed or served at VPC), transportation vouchers, some rental assistance, personal hygiene products and emergency funds for other short-term needs. You can find out more about IFCH on page 4 of this newsletter, featuring our representative, Brownie Carver.

March 5 is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and paper products to the worship service on Sunday or drop them off during the week during office hours. Items can also be placed in the blue cupboard in the Food Bank parking lot. We have seen a drop in donations over the winter; please help us continue our long-standing support of our local Food Bank! Especially needed are canned tuna, peanut butter, any type of pasta, and chicken or vegetable broth. Personal hygiene products are also appreciated.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Faith Formation

Faith Formation is beginning a six-week study using the text *A Just Passion*, a series of devotionals by various authors. The book's daily readings will help guide you through your Lenten Journey. This book is available for \$10 in the office, or you can download it on your Kindle. This Lenten series is being led by Pastor Leigh on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 on Zoom.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Deacons' Message

Prayer Requests

As you might have learned last Sunday Leigh requested that members of the Sunday service write down prayers. These prayers will be confidentially shared with each member of the Deacons, and we will be holding them up in our daily prayer life. Please know that we will be praying for each one of you with added emphasis on the shared prayers. We are all connected in our church community.

Lending Library

The Deacons have been meeting in the library for the past year. During our planning session for this year, we brainstormed ways we can care for and nurture our church community. Among the many things we share as a church community is a love of reading. With this in mind, we would like to set up a place where people can freely exchange books.

Do you have books in your home that you are willing to circulate in our community? We'll begin by collecting books that you enjoyed and would like to share with others. We can also set aside an area of books we have read and discussed at Book Club.

So, if you have books to share, please drop them off at the church library. *Please do not bring books that are precious to you* but do bring the ones that can be shared communitywide. We will collect them and categorize the books by theme/topic. Specific areas will be clearly marked for the books that will be available for lending. Take a book leave a book.

In late Spring we plan to hold a Book Swap. Stay tuned for more details. As this project unfolds, we will set up procedures for the process. Right now, we are in the collection phase.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Moderator

Outreach and Hospitality

February's First Friday at the Firepit was cold, wet and windy. A few stalwart souls braved the elements, but not for very long. We'll try again this upcoming Friday, March 3 at 6:00, despite what appears at this writing to be a potentially soggy forecast. Hope springs eternal!

There are several upcoming events sponsored by Outreach and Hospitality, each of which needs a bit of help from VPC volunteers. Take a peek at these and let us know which ones you can support. Signup sheets will be available in the East Room, or you can contact Lindsay Hofman or Nancy Tucker directly.

Pi Day, Tuesday March 14, 10:00-3:00: Our beautiful poster is already hung on the side door, inviting all to stop in for a slice (or two) of pie. And this year we can eat inside! Bring a pie (or two) to share! We also need volunteers for setup, to serve in two-hour shifts, and to help clean up. Contact Lindsay Hofman.

Easter Sunday, April 9 – Hot Cross Buns and Easter Egg Hunt, following worship: Bring your homemade (or bakery purchased) hot cross buns or other Easter goodies for after-worship coffee fellowship. For the Easter egg hunt, we'll set up the Bunny Chute to dispense treats, and we'll host an Easter egg hunt for kids of various ages. Looking for candy and treats that appeal to different age groups, plastic eggs, and people to stuff them. Contact Lindsay Hofman or Nancy Tucker.

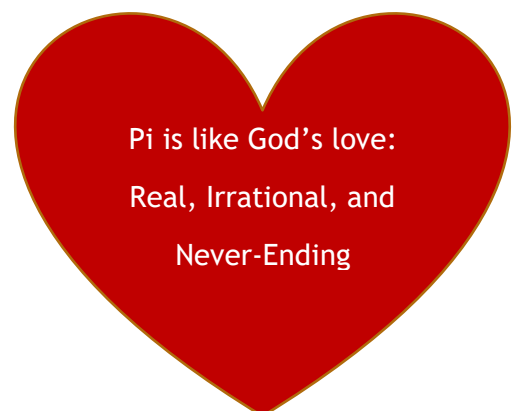
Annual VPC Barbecue Lunch, Sunday, May 7: Still in the planning stages, but we anticipate a shindig like last year's, with burgers—real and impossible-- freshly grilled outdoors. More info forthcoming in future weekly E-News blasts.

Island-wide Cemetery Cleanup, Saturday, May 20: We are exploring the idea of sponsoring cleanup of Vashon Cemetery the weekend before Memorial Day. This will include the entire Vashon community.

Small Gatherings at Your Home: Interested in hosting a lunch or a dinner? You decide how many people you would like to host, indoors or outdoors, what you would like to serve (or if you prefer pot luck), and the date. Hospitality will help you coordinate. Contact Nancy Tucker.

Lindsay Hofman
Outreach Elder
206-434-5439

Nancy Tucker
Hospitality Elder
818-259-1770



Building and Grounds

Our Second Saturday work party on February 11 was well attended, accompanied by a great warm, sunny day! Kathy O'Laughlin and Barb Huff trimmed shrubbery in the parking area along the east side of the Building. Beverly Skeffington cleaned trash and dug up invasive holly around the perimeter of the lot. Chris Coldeen, Bob Spangler, Larry Commeree, and Kathryn and Annabelle Thompson stripped the vinyl tiles from the kitchen floor in anticipation of installing new luxury vinyl plank (LVL) flooring.

If the weather allows on March 11, we'll try to pressure wash the porches and sidewalks and do a little trimming and weeding of the flower beds in preparation for Easter. Everyone is invited to attend from 10:00 - noon. If gardening is not your interest, we can always do a little more cleaning and dusting indoors.

You might notice that the carpets in the hallways were cleaned during the week of February 19-25 while Carpe Diem was off for Winter Break. The congregation did a wonderful job of moving all desks, tables, chairs, and furniture out of the Social Hall, Great Hall and East Room after worship February 19. Carpe Diem staff and volunteers restored the classrooms prior to the resumption of classes.

The potholes in the parking lot were filled by Lee Van Valkenburg of Concrete Elegance, and Cooperative Preschool volunteers also added wood chips to the courtyard playground during that week.

Our project to install a concrete patio in that courtyard has been lowered on the priority list of improvements developed by the newly-formed planning committee. Chris Coldeen and I are adding electrical outlets in the Youth Room, and contractors are preparing to install new doors to the offices which were broken into on January 7. We have purchased new, sturdy Sanctuary doors, which will be professionally stained and hung shortly.

Remember to mark your calendar for Second Saturday! It's a great time to meet new people and also catch up with old friends.

Jacq Skeffington



VPC Book Club

Our Book Club selection for March is West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. *"Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story. West with Giraffes explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late."* Amazon Audible

It is the story of a man who embarks on a highly provocative intellectual adventure with a gorilla - a journey of the mind and spirit that changes forever the way he sees the world and humankind's place in it."

We will meet at 6:00 on Friday, March 17 at the home of Kathy and Aglaia Olsen. This will be a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dish.

In April, our Book Club selection is Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Lindsay Hofman will host. Details to follow in the April newsletter.



March Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy March birthday to:

- 14 Liz Loveness
- 17 Barbara Zue



Calendar

March 2023

- 3 First Friday S'mores at the firepit 6:00 PM
Game Night 7:00 Zoom
- 4 Styrofoam and More collection, VPC parking lot 10:00 – 11:30
- 5 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 7 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 10 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 11 Second Saturday VPC Work Party 9:00 – Noon
- 12 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 14 Pi Day! VPC 10:00 – 3:00
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 17 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
- 19 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion
- 21 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Session Meeting 4:30 PM VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 23 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 24 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 26 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion
- 28 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom

Please Note:

Dates, times, and events might change after the time of this publication. Refer to the church bulletin and the weekly E-News for up-to-date information.

Ongoing Activities

- Mondays** Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 PM
- Tuesdays** Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM
Text Study Noon
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8:00 AM
- First Thursdays** Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
- Fridays** Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details)
Game Night 7:00 PM